

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 H-02 DHA-02 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05

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P 161451Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7857

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17949

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: TRAILS OF KOVALEV AND TVERDOKHLEBOV: SENATORIAL
INTEREST

REF: A. MOSCOW 17746; B. MOSCOW 17521; C. MOSCOW 17861

1. IN ADDITION TO CABLE FROM SENATOR KENNEDY AND
MARIETTA TREE (REF A), AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO RECEIVED
SIMILAR CABLES FROM SENATORS CRANSTON AND JACKSON RE-
QUESTING EMBASSY OBSERVERS TO COVER KOVALEV AND
TVERDOKHLEBOV TRIALS.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT INFORMING SENATORS
CRANSTON AND JACKSON THAT TVERDOKHLEBOV'S TRIAL DID
NOT TAKE PLACE IN MOSCOW DECEMBER 9 (REF B). DEPART-
MENT SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT WHILE EMBASSY HAS NO
CONSULAR STANDING IN THIS CASE AND DOUBTS WHETHER
EMBASSY OFFICER WOULD BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND TRIAL, IT
APPRECIATES CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC INTEREST AND HAS
FOLLOWED BOTH CASES AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE.

3. AT THE DEPARTMENT'S DISCRETION, DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO
WISH TO INFORM SENTAORS THAT EMBASSY WAS NOT ABLE TO
CONFIRM THAT KOVALEV'S TRIAL WAS TO BE HELD IN VILNIUS
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UNTIL DAY TRIAL ACTUALLY STARTED. AT THAT TIME EMBOFF

REQUESTED PERMISSION TO VISIT VILNIUS BUT WAS NOT GRANTED TRAVEL EXCEPTION TO 48 HOUR NOTIFICATION RULE TO ALLOW HIM TO REACH VILNIUS IN TIME TO COVER TRIAL. (AS DEPARTMENT AWARE WE ARE AGAIN REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR EMBOFF TO VISIT VILNIUS DECEMBER 19-21 FOR PURPOSE OF GATHERING MORE POST-TRIAL INFORMATION FROM LOCAL SOURCES --REF C).

4. DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO INFORM SENATORS THAT MOSCOW TRIAL OF TVERDOKHLEBOV HAS BEEN DELAYED APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF SOVIET SENSITIVITY TO GLARE OF WESTERN PUBLICITY. LATEST WORD FROM ACTIVE MOSCOW DISSIDENT IS THAT SOVIETS HAVE CHOSEN TRIAL DATES OF DECEMBER 25-26 ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WESTERN ATTENTION WILL BE DICWZ BY CHRISTMAS. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO STAY INFORMED OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, BUT THERE IS ALMOST NO CHANCE THAT AN EMBASSY OFFICER WILL BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND TVERDOKHLEBOV'S TRIAL WHEN IT IS HELD.

5. COMMENT: SOVIET CHOICE OF CHRISTMAS FOR TVERDOKHLEBOV'S TRIAL DATE, IF SUCH IS REALLY THE CASE, WOULD BE ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SOVIET INABILITY TO READ WESTERN REACTION CORRECTLY.

STOESSEL

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